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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,804	11/19/2001	Rittwik Jana	2000-0636	7344

7590

08/25/2004

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EXAMINER

DANIEL JR, WILLIE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2686

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,804

Applicant(s)

JANA ET AL.

Examiner

Willie J. Daniel, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 19 November 2001 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4, 7, 10, 12, 14-16, 19-23, 26, 29, 31, 33-35, 38-39 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Crane et al. (hereinafter Crane) (US 6,381,533 B1).

Regarding Claim 1, Crane discloses a method of deriving information based on activities of a plurality of cellular phones (106) which reads on the claimed “mobile users” (see col. 2, line 66 - col. 3, line 7; col. 3, lines 16-56; Figs. 1, 6), the method comprising:

tracking movement of a plurality of mobile users (106) across a wireless network (see col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 5, lines 5-35; Figs. 1, 6), where the cellular phones location is monitored in which the wireless network would be inherent;

identifying a group of mobile users (106) engaged in a common location-based activity from the plurality of mobile users (106) based on the tracked movement (see col. 5, lines 5-

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35,45-47; col. 5, lines 55 - col. 6, line 2; Figs. 1, 6), where the location-based activity is the cellular phones traveling in a cluster of a geographic area; and

determining a group property associated with the group of mobile users (106) (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2), where the travel speed of the cellular phones is averaged.

Regarding Claim 2, Crane discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the location-based activity is selected from a group consisting of traveling in a geographic region, traveling to a geographic region, traveling from a geographic region, and being in a geographic region but not traveling (see col. 5, lines 5-35,45-47; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; Fig. 7).

Regarding Claim 3, Crane discloses the method according to claim 1, further comprising deriving a group condition based on the determined group property (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; col. 6, line 9-20; Figs. 6-7).

Regarding Claim 4, Crane discloses the method according to claim 3, wherein the derived group condition comprises a traffic condition in a geographic region (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; col. 6, line 9-20; Figs. 6-7).

Regarding Claim 7, Crane discloses the method according to claim 3, further comprising providing information corresponding to the derived group condition to an interested party (see col. 6, lines 1-4), where the information is provided to traffic monitoring organizations or users of the cellular phone location determining system (104) (see Figs. 1, 6-8).

Regarding Claim 10, Crane discloses the method according to claim 1, further comprising dynamically updating group information corresponding to the mobile users (106)

of the group (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 6, lines 21-37,46-52; Fig. 8), where the information or data collected for the data collection system (200) is updated as the cellular phones move between clusters of a geographic area.

Regarding Claim 12, Crane discloses the method according to claim 10, wherein the updating includes modifying the group information to reflect new activity information of mobile users of the group (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 1; col. 5, lines 41-48), where data is collected to reflect the current conditions for traffic monitoring and reporting in which the new activity information would be inherent.

Regarding Claim 14, Crane discloses the method according to claim 1, further comprising maintaining a database of information including at least one of group information corresponding to the mobile users (106) of the group, group conditions and group properties (see col. 3, lines 49-55; col. 5, lines 41-48; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 4, 6-7), where the location determining system (104) and data collection system (200) collects data of the cellular phones in which the database would be inherent.

Regarding Claim 15, Crane discloses the method according to claim 14, further comprising dynamically updating the database of information based on the activities of the plurality of mobile users (106) (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 6, lines 21-37,46-52; Fig. 8), where the information or data collected for the data collection system (200) is updated as the cellular phones move between clusters of a geographic area.

Regarding Claim 16, Crane discloses the method according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of mobile users (106) are tracked based on the database of information (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, lines 6-32; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; Figs. 6-7).

Regarding Claim 19, Crane discloses a method of deriving information based on activities of mobile users (106), the method comprising:

tracking the mobile users (106) across one or more wireless networks (see col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 5, lines 5-35; Figs. 1, 6), where the cellular phones location is monitored in which the wireless network would be inherent;

identifying a group of mobile users (106) sharing one or more common traits from the mobile users (106) (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 1, 6-7); and

determining one of a group condition and a group property of the identified group of mobile users (106) (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 1, 6-7).

Regarding Claim 20, Crane discloses a system for deriving information based on the activity of mobile users (106) (see col. 5, lines 6-32; Fig. 6), the system comprising:

memory medium for maintaining information corresponding to a movement of mobile users (106) in order to track the movement of mobile users (106) (see col. 5, lines 41-48; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; col. 3, lines 49-63; Figs. 1, 6-8), where the data collection system (200) collects data of the cellular phones in a geographic area in which the memory medium would inherent; and

at least one data collection system (200) which reads on the claimed "processor" for identifying a group of mobile users (106) engaged in one or more common location-based activities from the mobile users (106) based on the tracked movement and for determining a group property associated with the group of mobile users (106) (see col. 5, lines 41-48; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 1, 6-8).

Regarding Claim 21, Crane discloses the system according to claim 20, wherein the location-based activity is selected from a group consisting of traveling in a geographic region, traveling to a geographic region, traveling from a geographic region, and being in a geographic region but not traveling (see col. 5, lines 5-35,45-47; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; Figs. 1, 6-8).

Regarding Claim 22, Crane discloses the system according to claim 20, wherein the processor further derives a group condition based on the determined group property (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; col. 6, line 9-20; Figs. 1, 6-7).

Regarding Claim 23, Crane discloses the system according to claim 22, wherein the derived group condition comprises a traffic condition in a geographic region (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; col. 6, line 9-20; Figs. 1, 6-7).

Regarding Claim 26, Crane discloses the system according to claim 22, wherein information corresponding to the derived group condition is provided to an interested party (see col. 6, lines 1-4), where the information is provided to traffic monitoring organizations or users of the cellular phone location determining system (104) (see Figs. 1, 6-8).

Regarding Claim 29, Crane discloses the system according to claim 20, wherein group information corresponding to the mobile users (106) of the group is dynamically updated (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 6, lines 21-37,46-52; Fig. 8), where the information or data collected for the data collection system (200) is updated as the cellular phones move between clusters of a geographic area.

Regarding Claim 31, Crane discloses the system according to claim 29, wherein the group information is updated by modifying the group information to reflect new activity

information of mobile users (106) of the group (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 1; col. 5, lines 41-48), where data is collected to reflect the current conditions for traffic monitoring and reporting in which the new activity information would be inherent.

Regarding Claim 33, Crane discloses the system according to claim 20, wherein the memory medium further maintains a database of information including at least one of group information corresponding to the mobile users (106) of the group, group conditions and group properties (see col. 3, lines 49-55; col. 5, lines 41-48; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 4, 6-7), where the location determining system (104) and data collection system (200) collects data of the cellular phones in which the memory medium would be inherent.

Regarding Claim 34, Crane discloses the system according to claim 33, wherein the database of information is dynamically updated based on the activities of the plurality of mobile users (106) (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 6, lines 21-37, 46-52; Fig. 8), where the information or data collected for the data collection system (200) is updated as the cellular phones move between clusters of a geographic area.

Regarding Claim 35, Crane discloses the system according to claim 34, wherein the plurality of mobile users (106) is tracked based on the database of information (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, lines 6-32; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 2; Figs. 6-7).

Regarding Claim 38, Crane discloses a system for determining group characterization of mobile users (106) based on the activity of the mobile users (106) (see Figs. 6-7), comprising:

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memory medium for maintaining information on the mobile users (106) to track the mobile users (see col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 5, lines 5-35; Figs. 1, 6), where the cellular phones location is monitored in which the memory medium would be inherent; and

at least one processor (200) for identifying a group of mobile users (106) sharing one or more common traits from the mobile users (106) (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 1, 6-7), and for determining one of a group condition and a group property of the identified group of mobile users (106) (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 1, 6-7).

Regarding Claim 39, Crane discloses a method of deriving information based on activities of a plurality of mobile users (106), the method comprising:

tracking movement of a plurality of mobile users (106) operating mobile communication devices (106), across a wireless network (see col. 5, lines 6-32; Figs. 1, 6-7), where the wireless network would be inherent;

identifying a group of mobile users (106) traveling around a particular area (see col. 5, line 63 - col. 6, line 5; col. 6, lines 9-20; Figs. 1, 6-8), where the cellular phones are monitored in a cluster of a geographic area;

determining a group velocity associated with the group of mobile users (see col. 5, line 63 - col. 6, line 5; col. 6, lines 9-20; Figs. 1, 6-8); and

deriving a traffic condition around the particular area based on the determined group velocity (see col. 5, line 63 - col. 6, line 5; col. 6, lines 9-20; Figs. 1, 6-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 17-18, 24-25, 27-28, 30, 32, 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane et al. (hereinafter Crane) (US 6,381,533 B1) in view of Myr (US 6,480,783 B1).

Regarding Claim 5, Crane fails to disclose having the feature further comprising providing customized services to at least one mobile user of the group based on the derived traffic condition. However, the examiner maintains that the feature further comprising providing customized services to at least one mobile user of the group based on the derived traffic condition was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

In the same field of endeavor, Myr discloses the feature further comprising providing customized services to at least one vehicle unit (SMU, CMU) which reads on the claimed "mobile user" of the group based on the derived traffic condition (see col. 4, lines 62-65; col. 7, line 3-23; col. 15, lines 45-51; col. 17, lines 21-41; col. 5, lines 19-24; Figs. 1, 9, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature further comprising providing customized services to at least one mobile user of the group based on the derived traffic condition, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 6, Crane fails to disclose having the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic congestion. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic congestion was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic jam which reads on claimed "traffic congestion" (see col. 4, line 51-54; col. 7, lines 3-23; col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 9; col. 9, line 30-42; Figs. 1, 9, 12, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic congestion, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 8, Crane fails to disclose having the feature further comprising: identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition; and providing the derived group condition to the one or more mobile users of the second group. However, the examiner maintains that the feature further comprising: identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition; and providing the derived group condition to the one or more mobile users of the second group was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature further comprising:

identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition (see col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the vehicle is informed of the condition of a zone that the vehicle is traveling towards; and

providing the derived group condition to the one or more mobile users of the second group (see col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the zone condition information is provided to the vehicle.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature further comprising: identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition; and providing the derived group condition to the one or more mobile users of the second group, in order traffic information provided to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 9, Crane fails to disclose having the feature further comprising: identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property; and providing the determined group property to the one or more mobile users of the second group. However, the examiner maintains that the feature further comprising: identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property; and providing the determined group property to the one or more mobile users of the second group was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature further comprising: identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property (see col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the vehicle is informed of the condition of a zone that the vehicle is traveling towards; and

providing the determined group property to the one or more mobile users of the second group (see col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the zone condition information is provided to the vehicle.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature further comprising: identifying a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property; and providing the determined group property to the one or more mobile users of the second group, in order to provide traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 11, Crane fails to disclose the feature wherein the updating includes modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a mobile user from the group. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the updating includes modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a mobile user from the group was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein the updating includes modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a

mobile user from the group (see col. 12, lines 11-38; col. 13, lines 2-15; Figs. 13, 18), where the system collects data related to the zones as vehicles enter and exit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein the updating includes modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a mobile user from the group, in order to provide traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 13, Crane discloses the feature further comprising providing customized service to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more determined group properties. However, the examiner maintains that the feature further comprising providing customized service to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more determined group properties was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature further comprising providing customized service to at least one mobile user (SMU, CMU) of the group based on the one or more determined group properties (see col. 4, lines 62-65; col. 7, line 3-23, col. 8, lines 30-36; col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 9; col. 9, line 48-63; col. 15, lines 45-51; col. 17, lines 21-41; col. 5, lines 19-24; Figs. 1, 9, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature further comprising providing customized service to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more determined group properties, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 17, Crane discloses a method of providing services to a plurality of mobile users (106) (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 5; Figs. 6-7), the method comprising:

tracking the mobile users (106) across a wireless network (see col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 5, lines 5-35; Figs. 1, 6), where the cellular phones location is monitored in which the wireless network would be obvious;

identifying a group of mobile users (106) sharing one or more common traits from the mobile users (106) (see col. 5, lines 5-35, 45-47; col. 5, lines 55 - col. 6, line 2; Figs. 1, 6), where the cellular phones are operating in the same cluster of a geographic area. Crane discloses the feature providing customized service to at least one mobile user of the group of mobile users based on the one or more common traits. However, the examiner maintains that the feature providing customized service to at least one mobile user of the group of mobile users based on the one or more common traits was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature providing customized service to at least one mobile user (SMU, CMU) of the group of mobile users (SMU, CMU) based on the one or more common traits (see col. 4, lines 62-65; col. 7, line 3-23, col. 8, lines 30-36; col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 9; col. 9, line 48-63; Figs. 1, 9, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature providing customized service to at least one mobile user of the group of mobile users based on the one or more common traits, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 18, the combination of Crane and Myr discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 17), in addition Crane further discloses wherein tracking the mobile users (106) comprises tracking movement of the mobile users (106) and identifying a group of mobile users (106) comprises identifying a group of mobile users (106) engaged in one or more common location-based activities (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 1, 6-7), where the cellular phones are traveling with in the same geographic area.

Regarding Claim 24, Crane fails to disclose having the feature wherein customized services are provided to at least one mobile user of the group based on the derived traffic condition. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein customized services are provided to at least one mobile user of the group based on the derived traffic condition was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein customized services are provided to at least one mobile user (CMU) of the group based on the derived traffic condition (see col. 4, lines 62-65; col. 7, line 3-23; col. 15, lines 45-51; col. 17, lines 21-41; col. 5, lines 19-24; Figs. 1, 9, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein customized services are provided to at least one mobile user of the group based on the derived traffic condition, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 25, Crane fails to disclose having the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic congestion. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic congestion was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic jam which reads on claimed "traffic congestion" (see col. 4, line 51-54; col. 7, lines 3-23; col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 9; col. 9, line 30-42; Figs. 1, 9, 12, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein the customized services include providing alternate routes in the event the derived traffic condition corresponds to traffic congestion, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 27, Crane fails to disclose having the feature wherein a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition is identified, and the derived group condition is provided to the one or more mobile users of the second group. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition is identified, and the derived group condition is provided to the one or more mobile users of the second group was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein a second group of mobile users (CMU) having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition is identified (see col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the vehicle is informed of the condition of a zone that the vehicle is traveling towards; and the derived group condition is provided to the one or more mobile users of the second group (see col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the zone condition information is provided to the vehicle.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the derived group condition is identified, and the derived group condition is provided to the one or more mobile users of the second group, in order traffic information provided to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 28, Crane fails to disclose having the feature wherein a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property is identified, and the determined group property is provided to the one or more mobile users of the second group. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property is identified, and the determined group property is provided to the one or more mobile users of the second group was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein a second group of mobile users (CMU) having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property is identified (see col. 8,

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line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the vehicle is informed of the condition of a zone that the vehicle is traveling towards, and

the determined group property is provided to the one or more mobile users (CMU) of the second group (see col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 10; col. 9, lines 14-38; col. 11, lines 20-25; Figs. 9, 12, 18), where the zone condition information is provided to the vehicle.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein a second group of mobile users having a potential interest in obtaining the determined group property is identified, and the determined group property is provided to the one or more mobile users of the second group, in order to provide traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 30, Crane fails to disclose the feature wherein the group information is updated by modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a mobile user from the group. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the group information is updated by modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a mobile user from the group was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein the group information is updated by modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a mobile user from the group (see col. 12, lines 11-38; col. 13, lines 2-15; Figs. 13, 18), where the system collects data related to the zones as vehicles enter and exit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein the group information is updated by modifying the group information to reflect one of an addition of a new mobile user to the group and a deletion of a mobile user from the group, in order to provide traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 32, Crane discloses the feature wherein customized service is provided to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more determined group properties. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein customized service is provided to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more determined group properties was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature wherein customized service is provided to at least one mobile user (CMU) of the group based on the one or more determined group properties (see col. 4, lines 62-65; col. 7, line 3-23, col. 8, lines 30-36; col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 9; col. 9, line 48-63; col. 15, lines 45-51; col. 17, lines 21-41; col. 5, lines 19-24; Figs. 1, 9, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature wherein customized service is provided to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more determined group properties, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 36, Crane discloses a system for providing customized services to mobile users (106) (see col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 5; Figs. 6-7), comprising:

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memory medium for maintaining information corresponding to the mobile users (106) in order to track the mobile users (106) (see col. 3, lines 1-7; col. 5, lines 5-35; Figs. 1, 6), where the data of the cellular phones is collect in which the memory medium would be obvious; and

at least one processor (200) for identifying a group of mobile users (106) sharing one or more common traits from the mobile users (106) (see col. 5, lines 5-35,45-47; col. 5, lines 55 - col. 6, line 2; Figs. 1, 6), where the cellular phones are operating in the same cluster of a geographic area. Crane discloses the feature facilitating provision of customized service to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more common traits. However, the examiner maintains that the feature facilitating provision of customized service to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more common traits was well known in the art, as taught by Myr.

Myr further discloses the feature facilitating provision of customized service to at least one mobile user (CMU) of the group based on the one or more common traits (see col. 4, lines 62-65; col. 7, line 3-23, col. 8, lines 30-36; col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 9; col. 9, line 48-63; Figs. 1, 9, 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Crane and Myr to have the feature facilitating provision of customized service to at least one mobile user of the group based on the one or more common traits, in order to provide a customized traffic information to the vehicle, as taught by Myr.

Regarding Claim 37, the combination of Crane and Myr discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 36), in addition Crane further discloses wherein the memory medium maintains movement information of the mobile users (106) to track the movement of the mobile users (106), and the processor (200) identifies a group of mobile users (106) engaged in one or more common location-based activities (see col. 3, lines 49-67; col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 19; Figs. 1, 6-7), where the cellular phones are traveling with in the same geographic area in which the memory medium would be obvious.

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Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Willie J. Daniel, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 305-8636. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WJD,JR
20 August 2004


8/23/04
LESTER G. KINCAID
PRIMARY EXAMINER